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<b>TO:</b> Examiner Akm E. Ullah, Art Unit 2874	<b>FROM:</b> John P. Iwanicki
<b>COMPANY:</b> U.S. Patent and Trademark Office MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE	<b>DATE:</b> December 16, 2003
<b>FAX NO.:</b> (703) 872-9306	<b>TOTAL NO. OF PAGES:</b> (including cover sheet) 11
<b>YOUR REFERENCE NO.:</b>	<b>OUR REFERENCE (C/M) NO.:</b> 03688-00001

**RE: USSN 09/885,712, Filed 06/20/01**  
**"Splice Protection System"**

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**COMMENTS:**

Please see the attached Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 which are being submitted herewith in the above-referenced application after receipt of the Notice of Allowance.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this transmission by return facsimile.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted by facsimile addressed to: fax no. (703) 872-9306, Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Examiner Akm E. Ullah, Group 2874, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

*December 16, 2003*

Date

*Laurie Hall*

Laurie Hall

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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 03688-00001

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Elliott E. Hershkowitz	)	Examiner:
	)	Akm E. Ullah
Serial No.: 09/885,712	)	
	)	Art Unit: 2874
Filed: June 20, 2001	)	
	)	
Title: SPLICE PROTECTION SYSTEM	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.99, Applicant submits the reference listed on the enclosed PTO form 1449. A copy of this reference is enclosed. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with the continuing duty of candor as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and is being filed after a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted by facsimile addressed to: fax no. (703) 872-9306, Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Examiner Akm E. Ullah, Group 2874, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

December 16, 2003

Date

Laurie Hall

Laurie Hall

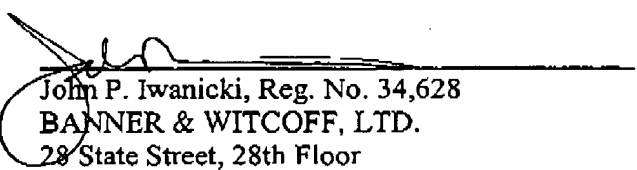
I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the reference in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the communication being dated September 26, 2003, which is not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Applicant hereby requests under §1.97(d) for this statement to be considered.

In the judgment of the undersigned, portions of the listed references may be material to the Examiner's consideration of the presently pending claims. However, the references have not been reviewed in sufficient detail to make any other representation and, in particular, no representation is intended as to the relative importance of any portion of the references. This statement is not a representation that the listed references have effective dates early enough to be "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for \$180.00 fee under §1.17(e)(1). The Commissioner is authorized to apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 16, 2003

  
John P. Iwanicki, Reg. No. 34,628  
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USPTO Form 1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Attorney Docket No. 03688-00001		Serial No. 09/885,712		
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> Sheet 1 of 1				Applicant: Eli tt E. Hersbkowitz				
				Filing Date: June 20, 2001			Group: 2874	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
Examiner Initial		Patent No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if appropriate)	
	AA	5,456,959	10/10/95	Dawes	428	34.1	11/02/93	
	AB							
	AC							
	AD							
	AE							
	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
	AK							
	AL							
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
Examiner Initial		Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							YES	NO
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>								
	AQ							
	AR							
	AS							
	AT							
<b>EXAMINER</b>						<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>		
<small>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant. **Copies of references not provided at the time of this submission.</small>								